

CDC Updates to Information and Guidance, January 9-16, 2004

The following updates and additions were made to CDC information and guidance on SARS and influenza during the period from January 9 to 16, 2004.

INFLUENZA <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

The following changes or additions describe flu activity in the United States for the January 9 to 16 reporting period and provide updates to clinician and public/patient education information:

Weekly Report: Influenza Summary Update Week ending January 10, 2004-Week 1

The number of states reporting widespread influenza activity continued to decrease during week 1 (January 4-10, 2004), the percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza also decreased, and the percentage of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) declined in all 9 surveillance regions, with an overall national percentage of 2.8%. However, pneumonia and influenza (P & I) mortality (10.2%) continued to exceed the epidemic threshold during week 1 (8.1%). Three hundred nineteen (11.9%) of 2,670 specimens collected from throughout the United States and tested by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories were positive for influenza. Twenty state health departments and New York City reported widespread influenza activity, 24 states reported regional activity, 3 states reported local activity, 2 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity, and 1 state did not report. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>

Preliminary Assessment of the Effectiveness of the 2003--04 Inactivated Influenza Vaccine --- Colorado, December 2003

This MMWR article describes a retrospective cohort study that was conducted among workers at a Colorado hospital to provide preliminary data on the effectiveness of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) against influenza-like illness (ILI). This report summarizes the results of that study, which indicated that TIV had no or low effectiveness against ILI.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5301a3.htm>

Questions and Answers: Colorado Healthcare Workers Study of the Effectiveness of the Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Against Influenza-like Illness

Highlights for clinicians of the retrospective cohort study that was conducted among workers at a Colorado hospital to provide preliminary data on the effectiveness of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) against influenza-like illness (ILI).

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/fluseason.htm#hcp>

Influenza A (H5N1) Outbreak in Vietnam

Since the end of October 2003, 14 persons (13 children and 1 adult) in Vietnam have been admitted from surrounding provinces to hospitals in Hanoi for severe respiratory illness. Among the 14 patients, three (2 children and 1 adult) have had avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infections confirmed by testing conducted at the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Hanoi and in Hong Kong. Twelve of the patients, including 11 children and the mother of one of the deceased children, have died.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/h5n1outbreak.htm>

Basic Information About Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)

Fact sheet on avian influenza.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/avianflu.htm>

Questions and Answers: Breastfeeding and the Flu

Describes precautions for nursing mothers with the flu to take to help prevent transmitting the disease to their babies.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/breastfeeding.htm>

SARS <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

One document was added to the CDC SARS web pages regarding a health update on a third possible SARS case in China. It also includes information on avian flu.

CDC Health Update: Third Possible SARS Case Reported in China; Influenza A(H5N1) Infections Reported in Vietnam

This advisory provides updated information and recommendations following recent reports of cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in Guangdong Province, China, and human cases of influenza A(H5N1) virus infections in Vietnam. No travel alerts or advisories to these regions have been issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), but increased vigilance is advised for ill persons traveling to the United States from Guangdong Province and Vietnam, Japan, and South Korea.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/han/sarsfluhanjan1404.htm>